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IN INSULAR POSSESSIONS.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Manila—Plague.

Surg. Heiser, chief quarantine officer and director of health for the Philippine Islands, reports, May 8: During the week ended May 3, 1913, there were notified at Manila 5 cases of plague with 5 deaths.

For the 72 hours prior to April 28, 1913, 4 deaths were reported among Filipinos who resided at widely separated addresses. On further investigation it was found that they all worked at a silversmith's shop at No. 1364 Calle Sande, Tondo. An additional employee suffering with headache, fever, and general malaise was found who also worked in the same shop. This man was isolated at the San Lazaro plague hospital and soon afterwards developed enlarged glands and died on the third day after his admission to the hospital. Autopsies were made of all these cases and the diagnosis of plague was confirmed in each.

The silversmith's shop was found to be a wooden structure with a concrete floor, around the margins of which there were several openings which resembled rat holes. The entire cement floor was removed and several mummified rats were found that had the appearance of having died of plague.

The premises were treated with petroleum and an emulsion of a coal-tar preparation and all contacts kept under observation. To May 8 no further cases occurred.

This instance again affords additional proof of the intimate association of human with rat plague and illustrates that rats may be found in most unexpected places.

PORTO RICO.

Rodents Collected and Examined.

Passed Asst. Surg. Creel reports that during the week ended May 31, 1913, there were examined 1,584 rodents, collected from various points in Porto Rico, and that of these, 520 were collected from various parts of San Juan municipality. None was found infected with plague.